

FALL 2012

5 Star Provider Reimbursement Rises January 1

On January 1, 2013, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) will make changes to the Wisconsin Shares tiered reimbursement for 5 Star child care providers.

This increase is authorized by Wisconsin statute that permits DCF to increase the maximum reimbursement rate for 5 Star providers from the current 10% to up to 25%.

The increased YoungStar bonus will be calculated on the Wisconsin Shares reimbursement amount after the parental copayment is deducted. For most 5 Star providers, your YoungStar quality bonus will be between 20% and 25%.

The new YoungStar bonus amount will be added to reimbursements that begin on December 30th on a per-child basis and will be added on your reimbursement checks in January 2013.

Questions about Wisconsin Shares payments should be directed to your county child care coordinator or in Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Early Care Administration child care coordinator. A list of these county child care coordinators can be found at:

<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/wishares/pdf/coordinators.pdf>

CAP CARE in Cambridge Earns 4 Stars

With the onset of YoungStar for school-age programs and brand new to the process, CAP CARE decided to focus on ensuring that they received a 3 Star rating in their first year of participation.

What came as a pleasant surprise was the encouragement and confidence of their technical consultant to go through the formal rating process to earn a 4 Star rating.



"Although the initial thought of becoming a 4 Star program seemed overwhelming, the YoungStar program provided the support and information to allow us to reach our goal! It has been great for our program and our families,"

—Lesli Buehler, Director

While change can be challenging, CAP CARE shares that it is well-worth it for the positive response. Janette Bystol, Child Care Leader, describes how children have reacted to changes in the environment, sharing that: "YoungStar has shown us that less is more and the children have really responded to the idea positively. Having the art station,

"Painting with Picasso," always set up and ready to go has been a huge hit. The block area is another favorite with small bins of people, transportations and more, all close by ready for play. Gina, from 4-C, was a huge help in the entire process and I am forever grateful for all of her wonderful ideas to help us achieve our 4 Star rating."

The encouraging reactions don't stop with the children. With coverage from the local media and congratulations from school teachers and families within the community, this positive recognition served to strengthen and validate CAP CARE's quality.



How Does YoungStar Renewal Work?

You've been through your first year of YoungStar and received your first YoungStar rating. Congratulations! Now what?

Barring any provider/director/lead teacher education or training changes, your rating is in effect for one year. The date you were first rated in YoungStar is called your "Anniversary Date." This date is important for your ongoing YoungStar participation each year.

About four months before your anniversary date, you will receive a YoungStar Contract Renewal in the mail. This Contract Renewal will have some of your contact information filled out for you. Read it carefully and correct any misinformation. Then, like last year, you'll have an opportunity to choose the type of rating you want (automated or on-site) and if you want on-site technical assistance at your program. We encourage you to request

on-site technical assistance to support your quality improvement efforts.

After you complete the form, send it to your local YoungStar office. Then, within a few weeks, if you requested on-site technical assistance, the local YoungStar office will contact you to set up your first visit.

If you requested on-site technical assistance, you will likely be working with the same Technical Consultant that you did in year one. We designed YoungStar this way to allow providers to develop relationships with their Technical Consultants over a number of years.

The rating process is the same for 2013 as it was for 2012. However, some slight updates and clarifications to the way you earn points will be made each year. These changes are clearly outlined on the Providers page of the YoungStar website:

<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/>

Special Note: Don't Give Out Your Credit Card Information

Recently, it came to the attention of YoungStar staff that a provider was called and asked for her credit card information over the phone to "complete her grant with YoungStar." The provider had suspicions about this and told the caller she needed to talk to her YoungStar Technical Consultant about this before giving information over the phone and asked the caller for their name. The caller abruptly hung up. This provider was smart to question this caller because YoungStar staff will never call you to ask for your credit card information over the phone. If you ever are called and asked for the information, try to get the caller's name and then contact your YoungStar Technical Consultant.

The more you know...

New Registry School-Age Credential

In November, The Registry board voted to approve a new Professional Afterschool and Youth Development Credential. This four course (12 credit) credential is designed for individuals working in out-of-school-time programs for children between the ages of five through twelve.

It is an exciting and challenging responsibility to create a supportive environment for a group of school-age children, to develop a relationship with each one, and meet their needs as individuals and as a group. Children's experiences during this period in their lives can increase their self-confidence and competency and enhance school success.

Through the four courses of this credential the school age program and group leader will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively guide and facilitate the learning experiences of the children in their care. The credential consists of the following four courses:

1. Foundations in Afterschool and Youth Development
2. Engaging Youth in Groups
3. Intentionality in Planning
4. Capstone Course: Site Programming and Operations

For more information about this credential or any professional development question, contact Wisconsin Early Childhood Association Professional Development Counselors at:

1-800-783-9322, option 3.

